

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-70 were pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-22, 26-44, 59-61 and 63-67 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hatlelid et al. (U.S. Patent 6,404,438). It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 68-70 have been allowed, and Claims 23-25, 45-58 and 62 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Please cancel Claims 1-17, 21, 23, 28, 30, 34-35, 39, 41-42, 45 and 65-67.

As previously stated, Claims 1-17, 21, 23, 28, 30, 34-35, 39, 41-42, 45 and 65-67 have been cancelled. Independent Claim 18 has been amended to include the language originally contained in Claim 23 and intervening Claim 21, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent Claim 29 has been amended to include the language originally contained in Claim 45 and intervening Claims 30, 34-35, 39 and 41-42, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 18 and 29 is respectfully requested.

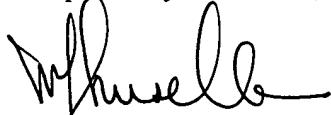
Claims 22, 24 and 25 have been amended to depend on Claim 18, and so as not to depend on a cancelled claim. Likewise, Claims 31, 33, 36-38, 40, 43-44 and 46 have been amended to depend on Claim 29, and so as not to depend on a cancelled claim.

Independent Claims 18 and 29 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 19-20, 22, 24-27, 31-33, 36-38, 40, 43-44 and 46-64, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejections of dependent Claims 19-20, 22, 24-27, 31-33, 36-38, 40, 43-44 and 46-64 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 18-20, 22, 24-27, 29, 31-33, 36-38, 40, 43-44, 46-64 and 68-70 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Musella
Reg. No. 39,310
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516

PJF/MJM/RCC/dr/ml